

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1 and 3-14 were pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected.

Claims 3 - 6 stand objected to.

Claims 8-14 stand allowed.

Claim 1 is cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 3 – 7 are amended herein without prejudice or disclaimer.

Amendments to the Claims

Applicant gratefully acknowledges Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 3-6 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claims 3-6 have been amended to be independent in form. Claim 7 has been amended to depend from amended independent claim 3. Applicant submits that these amendments place the application in condition for allowance. Therefore, entry of the accompanying amendments is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 3-6 stand objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the

base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-6, having been amended in independent form including the limitations of base claim 1, these objections are deemed moot. Allowance of present claims 3-6 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,151,379 to Escoffery (hereinafter "Escoffery"). Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 1 moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Escoffery in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,431,127 to Stevens. Claim 7 has been amended to depend from claim 3 and is allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from an allowable base claim. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any

claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes they have addressed all outstanding grounds raised by the Examiner and respectfully submits the present case is in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any questions or outstanding matters, the Examiner is cordially invited and requested to contact Applicant's undersigned Attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

/Edward J. Howard/

Edward J. Howard
Registration No. 42,670
Howard IP Law Group, P.C.
P.O. Box 226
Fort Washington PA, 19034-0226
Tel: (215) 542-5824
Fax: (215) 542-5825

Date: August 3, 2011